

The Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous (also called present progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an ongoing action is happening now, either at the moment of speech or now in a larger sense. The present continuous can also be used to show that an action is going to take place in the near future. Read on for detailed descriptions, examples, and present continuous exercises.

Present Continuous Forms

The present continuous is formed using am/is/are + present participle. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and am/is/are. Negatives are made with not.

- ❖ Statement: You are watching TV.
- ❖ Question: Are you watching TV?
- ❖ Negative: You are not watching TV.

Present continuous

POSITIVE

I	Am	Working
We . you . they	Are	
He . she .it	Is	

NEGATIVE

I	Am not	Working
We . you . they	Are not	
He . she .it	Is not	

QUESTION

Am	I	Working ?
Are	We . you . they	
is	He . she .it	

SPELLING RULES

❖ With most verbs we add -ing.

go > going

play > playing

work > working

If the verb ends in consonant + -e we delete the -e and add -ing

come > coming

live > living

move > moving

have > having

*Exception: be > being

If the verb ends in -ie, we change -ie to -ying.

die > dying

lie > lying

If the verb ends in one vowel + one consonant, we double the consonant.

get > getting

run > running

shop > shopping

sit > sitting

put > putting

When the verb ends in one vowel + -y, -w or -x, we just add -ing.

play > playing

snow > snowing

mix > mixing

When the last syllable verb is not stressed. listen / 'lɪsən/ > listening visit / vɪzɪt/ > visiting

* Exception: travel / 'trævəl/ > travelling

IMPORTANT

- Some verbs are not used in the present continuous. They are normally used in the simple forms.

Some of the most important ones are:

understand hate love know Like
prefer want remember mean believe

like know love hate understand believe mean remember want prefer

I am liking tennis > I like tennis.

Are you knowing Maria? > Do you know Maria?.

Conclusion

1) Learning that boggled my mind: how do people know how to distinguish between past, present, and future without it? But the concept of time is actually built into time words (yesterday, tomorrow, etc.) instead. Still, the thought of not having tense is something my English-language brain can't handle. Why? We use it to signal what happens when. And then there's *aspect* to accompany it. Think of aspect as a tense sharpener: it lends additional meaning. Tense and aspect play a vital role in constructing meaning. Here I've already told what is tense and I showed you the types of tenses by chart.

2) As you can see the present continuous tense is most often used in English grammar to describe a continuing action, something that is unfinished. This tense is also important since it is a simple sentence structure that can show actions or events that are happening right now, in the planned future, or sometimes even in the past

3) If you are teaching English or learning it, I'd recommend simply sticking to grammatically correct constructions and leaving the idiomatic expressions to the creators of advertisements and song lyrics. In formal writing, the experts recommend that when you can use fewer words to express a thought, you should, so use the present continuous sparingly—short and sweet can't be beat!

4) I hope you read the article above the next page is the reference I have taken from it, but please English is so deep you can learn many useful things please search you can find more things that I haven't talked about.

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